

PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser.

By Authority.

WHEREAS, the Minister of the Interior has provided two places to be used for the deposit of rubbish and filth to be carried from the city, viz: the loko called "Poki," near the south end of Queen street, and the vacant land near the windmill belonging to the Messrs. Sumner, makai of the prison; therefore,

All persons are hereby strictly prohibited, in accordance with Sec. 23 of the Civil Code, from depositing any rubbish or filth upon any street, lane, wharf, or vacant lot, within the boundaries of the city of Honolulu, under a penalty of not exceeding, one hundred dollars, for each offence.

Secretary Board of Health.

Office of the Board of Health, 10th February, 1864.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13. The Polynesian Newspaper.

The Polynesian has ceased to exist, the last number having been issued on the 6th inst. The reason of this is, that Mr. Foranier has been unable to fulfill the contract which he assumed about two years ago. The expense of carrying on the establishment has exceeded its income, resulting in pecuniary loss to him, as in former years it was a heavy loss to the government.

In releasing him from his obligations, the government has acted honorably with one who has undoubtedly tried to do his best. The experiment, however, has shown that it is no small undertaking to carry on a paper and printing office, even when it has the assistance of the public work, and every opportunity for making a fair trial.

We shall miss the Polynesian from our exchange list, for with all its faults, it had some good qualities, and served to put us on our guard, as a competitor must always do,—checking the bold style we have sometimes indulged in, or correcting us in matters of fact and figures, reflected back with a light in nowise flattering to a writer's vanity. In this respect, the influence of a rival and competitor in journalism is always beneficial, and we shall regret standing alone, for none more than we enjoy keen and pointed discussion, even though spiced with sarcasm, or ourselves made the mark of its wit.

The Polynesian has been in existence about 20 years, and no one can deny that it has done good service in its day, but mainly as a public newspaper, and not so much as a government organ, for in the latter capacity, one result was to create much opposition, which to a certain extent has been unnecessary, and which judicious management might have avoided. There has never been in this country any organized opposition party, and whatever opposition the government has had to contend with, was created by injudicious writers in its own organ or by unwise acts of its executive officers.

It was to meet and rebut these, as well as to supply a commercial and literary want, that the Advertiser was started in 1856, and has been continued as a necessity to this day. On many questions that have arisen, it has been compelled to assume an attitude of opposition and often an ultra position, because driven to it by the strong partisanship of the government organ. Had the latter been more discreetly conducted, in all probability the former would never have been started.

One thing we wish to state here, in order to correct wrong impressions. There may have been sometimes an impression that the Commercial was originated and supported by a clique or party. It has been so frequently hinted at and reiterated in the Polynesian, that some may have come to believe it. This is not so. On the contrary, its Publisher has had to rely solely on its advertisements; subscriptions and jobwork for its support, aided with the experience of more than twenty years as a printer, and in no case has the paper received any subsidy or pecuniary assistance from any person or society whatever. It was the liberality of such men and firms as A. P. Everett, C. Brewer & Co., Gilman & Co. and B. W. Field, that sustained and encouraged it in its earlier years. For several years, these firms paid this paper for subscriptions, advertisements and printing, over \$2,000 a year. Mr. Everett's bills alone amounting to one-half that sum. Times have changed now, and Honolulu cannot boast the business it then had, and it is doubtful whether half the amount of printing is now executed here. For the same reason, it is questionable whether more than one weekly paper can be supported.

It falls to the lot of the proprietor of this paper to conduct the only journal now published here. The experience of the past will, we trust, enable him to make it what it ought to be while it remains such—conservative in its views and conciliatory in its course. There has no doubt been much unnecessary bitterness at times expressed. "Let bygones be bygones." Its columns will always be open to its patrons, as they have always been, for the fullest and freest temperate discussion of all questions of public interest.

Although this paper is now the only medium of advertising, our friends need fear no combination of advertising, our interests need no rise in the price of advertising. On the contrary, we propose to revise the scale and reduce the charges, especially on business cards and advertisements of that character. There can never be a monopoly in the printing business in Honolulu, unless it be like the Steam Navigation Company's monopoly—something that don't pay. We wish to encourage advertising and printing, and with that object in view, shall make our prices as liberal as we can possibly afford. More than this our patrons cannot ask.

When occasion requires it, we shall always be prepared to issue extras, either for important foreign or domestic news, and in this way, as far as possible, supply the want of a second paper. We understand that the Government intends to keep open its printing office for its own work, until the meeting of the Legislature, when some other plan may be adopted, or the present perhaps be continued.

We are under obligations to Messrs. McRuer & Merrill, and C. W. Brooks & Co., of San Francisco, and to Capt. Paty of the *Yankee*, for files of later papers than were received through other sources.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEW YEAR.—Monday last was observed by the Chinamen as their annual New Year's Day. All their stores were closed and the day devoted to festivities. The principal merchants spread tables to receive their friends, and we observed many foreigners calling on them. The tables were loaded with cakes, pastry, wines and nuts, and ornamented with choice flowers. On one table, we noticed a dish of the choicest China fruit, expressly imported from China for the occasion. In their own country, five days, commencing with new year's, are observed as holidays—instead of one as here. We may state here a point not generally known—that the Chinese here sympathize with the rebels in China, whose chief object is the expulsion of the Tartar dynasty which has ruled in that country for two hundred years or more, and the restoration of the sovereignty to Chinese. Most foreigners sympathize with and aid the Tartar government, probably from mistaken notions of the object of the rebels.

The schooner *Marilla* sailed on Monday last for Lahaina and Hilo, in command of Capt. Akoni, with a crew of passengers, numbering about 140. The wind at the time was south-westerly, and quite fresh, so that the vessel had to tow out with steam. Soon after getting outside she began to leak. Near midnight, land was observed ahead, and the schooner tacked and ran on a westerly, when she put about on her course and soon made land again, which proved to be the west end of Molokai. Conflicting accounts are current regarding the management of the vessel at this time, but as she appeared to be in a very unsafe position, and was close in to shore, with short sail on, two foreigners on board as passengers, Messrs. Treadway and Spencer, from whom we obtain our information, set her on fire and were off the shore. It is stated that she was so close in, that the barely escaped a blind roller, ten or fifteen feet in height, that rolled by her. The vessel at the time had about a foot of water in her hold, over her ballast, which the passengers bailed out. She was bailed back, and arrived here on the following day about noon. The schooner has been in the Fanning's Island trade, and is said to have needed some repairs or caulking, which was to be done here, but for the unusually large crowd of passengers on board, which set her down rather deep in the water. It is difficult, however, to account for her running out of her course, with a free wind, unless there was some culpable mismanagement on board. Akoni, in the reputation of being a good pilot, having served as Captain some 10 years or more.

OPPOSITION.—The San Francisco papers contain the advertisement of a new line of Hawaiian Packets, to run between that port and Honolulu, with C. W. Brooks & Co., agents at that end of the route, and Aldrich, Walker & Co., here. The line is to consist of the *Smyrna*, Capt. Bartlett, 333 tons, the *Oswald*, Capt. Hempstead, and the *A. A. Eldridge*, Capt. Bennett. The price of passage is advertised in the same papers at \$40, and freight \$4 per ton by the Register. We have not heard what the rates are for the new line. Although there promises to be an increase of service, this change of line will not be an increase of more than four good vessels. Two perhaps in each line would be well supported at fair rates. It is reported that it is Capt. Smith's design to purchase a vessel of 600 tons to sail with the *Comet*. If a good vessel is obtained, swift and commodious, it would be a great improvement, and the two vessels now running with the *Comet* could be sold.

The Partington family have evidently concluded to settle down at Lahaina, as a correspondent sends us another of their wise sayings. He came rushing into the house, and exclaimed, "the kanakas have stopped our water, and it is impossible to irrigate our land." Dame Partington, who was busy teaching a protegee of art of crocheting, suddenly dropped her work, and replied, "How unphilosophical these kanakas are! they forget that water like the rain of Heaven, should flow to the just and the unjust alike, and the magistrates only encourage them in their malicious propensities!"—and she wiped her spectacles and resumed her juvenile needlework, with an air of satisfaction that was really refreshing.

The *Yankee* is a wonderful craft, and her last passage from San Francisco shows that there is something in knowing how to sail a vessel. Com. Paty, with the instinct of an old sailor, who has been over the course 132 times, steered through the calms, variables and head winds, which prevail at this season, and made a passage of 11 days and 12 hours, while the schooner *Albatross*, sailing a day ahead of him, a passage of 13 days, and the *Derby* and *Gray Peabody*, which sailed a few days ahead of him, were 17 and 18 days each. Being a huge boiler on the deck as we went aboard the *Yankee*, we observed that the Commodore had been steadily manufacturing steam to make his quick run, but he says that it was all done with wind and good luck, and that the change of day will be a long one, as the flag wave over the bark which so worthily serves as a connecting link with the olden time.

FIRST SPRING WHALE.—The whale-ship *Congress* came in on Friday last, from New Bedford, via Sydney and the Marquesas. On the passage out she was set on fire by her crew, a report of which from Capt. Stranburg will be found among our marine memoranda. Having in this accident lost all her fresh water, she touched at the Marquesas to obtain a supply, and there her crew were captured by the natives, who stripped naked and would have killed and perhaps eaten by them, but for the timely assistance of Kekela, one of the Hawaiian ministers stationed on that island, who shall publish Mr. Wheldon's narrative next week, which will be found one of the most interesting hair-breadth escapes from those savage cannibals on record.

CHANGE OF PUBLICATION DAY.—The Polynesian having been discontinued, the Commercial Advertiser will hereafter be issued on Saturdays. That is a more convenient publication day for a weekly, and as Honolulu is to have but one paper for the present, the change of day will be agreeable to our patrons and the advertising public.

CHEAP ENOUGH.—Travelers can now go from Honolulu to New York for \$200. The opposition steamer *America* having arrived at San Francisco, she and the *Moses Taylor* make a regular monthly line, with the *United States* and *Albatross* from New York, \$150. The *America* is 2,300 tons, and one of the finest and fastest boats in the Pacific. The opposition steamer, *Albatross*, carries the bulk of the trade, and coming from the East. The mail steamers, however, carry most of the freight.

OFFICIAL NOTICES.—We are requested by His Excellency the Minister of the Interior to state, that as the Polynesian has been discontinued, all government notices requiring to be published in English will be inserted in the Advertiser.

An official notice of the Board of Health will be found in this paper, instructing citizens where to deposit dirt and rubbish. Another notice issued by the Board is directed against stray horses, and many of which have been pastured in the streets. All horses found loose in the road are liable to be seized and impounded. Stray horses are generally very troublesome animals, and an occasional example will keep the roads clear.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—The bark *Young Hector* will sail to-day at 10 o'clock having obtained a full cargo, consisting mostly of sugar and opium. She will take a mail, and files of the last three dates of the Commercial can be obtained at our counter in wrappers ready for mailing.

Messrs. vonHolt & Heuck's little Anahola packet *Jaenette* arrived at 4 P. M. yesterday, having made a fine passage up from Kaula of only 23 hours. The *Old Yellow* came in the same day, 65 hours from Koloa.

ANOTHER HILO PACKET.—The schooner *Edeline* has been purchased by Mr. J. C. King, for the Hilo route, and will probably sail to-day. She will be found a strong, well-built vessel, but not so fast as some others.

OUTSIDE.—"Pheelinks" resumes his narrative and pictures, the beauties of inter-island travel on regular dispatch coasters. He has evidently "ridden the goat," as he writes very feelingly on the subject, and shall probably return from him occasionally during his travels.

THANKFUL.—The members of the Lahaina AHAHI ALOHA, a very respectable body, most of whom were passengers in the *Marilla*, had a feast on Thursday at the residence of the value of their subsistence, and appropriated for service in bailing out the vessel. The joke is too good to be allowed to pass by unnoticed.

NEW WORLD RESTAURANT.—This establishment is as usual in the full tide of success, but the proprietor says there is always room for a few more boarders. Read the advertisement in another column.

TELEGRAPH.—A number of changes have been made in the telegraph table, owing to losses of vessels, and new coasters having entered the service. The following is a correct list of the numbers referring to the coasting vessels:

35—sch. Kamol.	42—sch. Kamehameha IV.
36—sch. Kaula.	43—sch. Kaula.
37—steamer Kilauea.	44—sch. Kaula.
38—sch. Kilauea.	45—sch. Kaula.
39—sch. Kilauea.	46—sch. Kaula.
40—sch. Kilauea.	47—sch. Kaula.
41—sch. Kilauea.	48—sch. Kaula.

Letters from East Maui state that pieces of the wreck of the *Emma Roake* are strewn all along the shore. At Kalahepo, the light eagle formerly on the stern of the vessel, was picked up, several sugar kegs, and other articles.

FOREIGN NEWS!

The clipper bark *Yankee*, of the Regular Dispatch Line, arrived on Friday morning last. Com. Paty has made another of those quick passages, which have given him and his bark a fame, having made the run down in 114 days. The *Yankee* brings the mails, and a very interesting summary of foreign news. The papers received by her are—New York, Dec. 23, and San Francisco, Jan. 24, the latter containing telegraphic dispatches from Washington to the 22d.

The following tells in a few lines what Lee's and Meade's armies are doing:

HEAD QUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, January 21st.—Nothing of special importance has transpired within our lines for several days. The enemy appears to enjoy a similar state of quiet.

From Gen. Butler's Department.

General Butler has, during the short time that he has been in command of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, enlisted between 12,000 and 15,000 colored soldiers, and taken the responsibility of offering a bounty of ten dollars, which has had a marked effect in stimulating enlistments. The War Department has since ratified his action.

The Wilmington Journal says: The recent presence of Butler in this city, and the concentration of troops at that point, as well as at Washington and Beaufort, leave little room for doubt that an advance of a more serious character is contemplated and on the eve of execution by the enemy [Federal] to the State of North Carolina. The enemy may advance in the direction of Kingston and Goldsboro. No doubt they are increasing their forces at Washington and Falmouth, and we expect an attack on the railroad near Rocky Mount and Weldon.

Rumors are afloat in Washington of a reorganization of the army. It is also rumored that there are three separate corps. It is also rumored that an independent corps of 50,000 men will be given to one of our best fighting Generals, who will be authorized to take Richmond in his own way. It is also asserted that a co-operating movement will be made on Richmond, at the opening of the spring, by a column on the Peninsula, or south of the James River, aided by Butler's forces, and by the main column on the direct line from Washington. Hancock will command one of the three corps into which the Army of the Potomac will be organized. Sedgwick another, and a General—not of the Potomac—another.

From Richmond.

The construction of ironclads at Richmond has been abandoned. The iron was sent to Charleston and Savannah to complete the several vessels being built there. A universal feeling of terror and despondency pervades these cities. It is with difficulty that the Government is able to stem the current of popular feeling setting in against it.

The Richmond Enquirer, speaking of the announcement of the re-enlistment of so many Federal troops for the war, says: "The action of the enemy in this matter is important to us. The preservation of their organization shows that they intend to move forward at the earliest practicable moment in spring. We shall need every energy of national defense for the spring campaign. Richmond will, in all probability, be approached by the enemy, and the Government is able to stem the current of popular feeling setting in against it."

Progress of Unionism in North Carolina.

North Carolina papers continue to demand peace. The Raleigh Progress says: "Peace alone can prevent starvation. It is folly to talk about there being enough supplies in the country. Such is in fact untrue, and those who adhere to such a mistake will find out their error when too late. Confederate money is bad enough, but a dearth of provisions is not caused by a want of confidence in the currency, but because the producers have nothing to bring in. We tell the people and authorities, that the present condition of things cannot, and will not last. The masses of honest, hard-working people have been deceived long enough, and will not be deceived any more. They want peace and the end of the war. It is not upon such terms as the leaders who have betrayed them desire, but upon such terms as they themselves shall prescribe. Rich men may have meat and bread, but we tell them they will not remain with them unless peace is provided for. Peace, such as statesmen and honest men might obtain, would give abundance, and all creature comforts; but a continuance of the war will rob us of all social and political rights, and make the many the few of the few. We are provided for, made, and that such as the world will consider honorable, and those who assume the rule ought to take steps to make it, for enough has been said by the enemy to satisfy all reasonable men that they would gainly remove the sword from the sword and refer it to the council chamber."

Another article says: "There is not another man to spare from the agricultural and industrial pursuits of the country, and another draft in this class will be fraught with the most disastrous consequences. We are now in a position where we are provided for, made, and that such as the world will consider honorable, and those who assume the rule ought to take steps to make it, for enough has been said by the enemy to satisfy all reasonable men that they would gainly remove the sword from the sword and refer it to the council chamber."

News from Newbern, says: The wholesale conscription law is creating great consternation and excitement in the Southern portion of the State, where preparations are being made to resist it. Meetings are held at which the Southern Confederacy is openly repudiated, and favoring a return to the Union.

The Raleigh (N. C.) Standard editorially says: It is civil law in the Southern States, that the pension of the (N. C.) *habes corpus*, and any and every able bodied man between the age of 16 and 65 is placed in the army, and the rights of the State are to be swept away, the people of North Carolina will take their affairs into their own hands, and proceed, in convention assembled, to vindicate their liberties and principles. They will not submit to military despotism. They will not submit to the destruction of their personal and civil rights in this or any other way. A vast majority of our people are already excited and restless at these threatened encroachments on their liberties by the Congress at Richmond, and we warn the members of that body not to kindle a flame which no effort can extinguish. If Congress pass these measures, the people will rise in their might and assert their sovereignty, and we to the official who shall attempt to turn the arms of Confederate soldiers against the people of this State. North Carolina will not be a slave of either the Congress at Richmond or Washington. She is the keystone of the Confederate arch. If that stone should fall, the arch would crumble.

WASHINGTON, January 21.—A late Richmond *Whig* says: If Wilmington is taken, Charleston falls by an attack in the rear.

Boston, January 22.—A correspondent of the *Transfer*, writes very feelingly on the subject, and shall probably return from him occasionally during his travels.

THANKFUL.—The members of the Lahaina AHAHI ALOHA, a very respectable body, most of whom were passengers in the *Marilla*, had a feast on Thursday at the residence of the value of their subsistence, and appropriated for service in bailing out the vessel. The joke is too good to be allowed to pass by unnoticed.

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Another dispatch, of the 14th, says: "The enemy

kept up lively shelling all day. Since Tuesday at 8 o'clock, four hundred and seventy-one shells have been thrown into the city, causing some damage, but no casualty. The enemy have unmasked two or three more Parrott's at Gregg. The shelling is still heavy this evening.

Private information from rebel sources states that Charleston is being gradually destroyed by fire by our batteries. On the 26th December, two blocks of buildings on King street, belonging to the estate of the late Senator Butler, were destroyed. Several large warehouses, occupied by the rebel Government, filled with army supplies, were destroyed. At the same time the city was almost deserted except by military. The poorer classes have erected temporary accommodations out of range of our fire. Great destruction prevails among them.

New York, Jan. 19.—A Hilton Head correspondent of the 16th states that a few vessels of the new expedition are moving out of the harbor.

The siege of Charleston is temporarily suspended, except by the fire of our guns from Morris Island, where a sufficient force is left for defence and to work the guns, and where more batteries are being erected for the purpose of reducing the city to ashes. A large negro force accompanied the expedition, the War Department having authorized Gen. Gilmore to recruit all the negroes in his Department as troops, under white officers.

From East Tennessee.

All quiet at Chattanooga.

From Knoxville, we learn that a special Cincinnati telegram says: Longstreet's army are in winter quarters thirty miles from Knoxville, having a front of twenty miles. They are said to number 37,000. Gordon Granger commands the Federals, and believes himself fully able to defend himself against Longstreet. General Foster is ill at Knoxville.

Rumor says that Longstreet has recently made a tender of an important character to the General Government, involving no less than the surrender of his force. An official was detailed, rumor says, to hold an interview with him and agree upon the terms. Such terms were offered to him that he declared that, rather than accept them, he and the people would fight to the last. We cannot say how much truth there is in the story.

Union Meeting in West Tennessee.

Nashville, January 22.—A meeting of over two thousand persons was held at the Capitol to-night, to consult on the restoration of the civil government of the State. Resolutions were passed recognizing the authority of the Federal Government to secure Republican government in rebellious States, by appointing military governors, and by the use of force, as well as in itself, and the cause of the rebellion; advising the reorganization of the State Government, by a Constitutional Convention, composed of delegates pledged to immediate and universal emancipation.

The resolutions commended the integrity and fidelity of Governor Johnson, and request him to call such convention. A Committee was appointed to select delegates to the Southern Free State Convention to be held at Louisville. Governor Johnson favored a French vessel will accompany each at an interval of twenty-four hours.

The indictment against King and Heenan had been removed to the Court of King's Bench.

The understanding between Maximilian and Napoleon is said to be excellent, and it is said that capitalists are overhauling the Archduke with offers of money on simple guarantee of his accession to the throne.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Spectator* says, in a recent letter, that "everybody in France appears to agree on one point—that an irretrievable disaster of the French troops (in Mexico) or a war with the United States would instantly sound the death-knell of the Second Empire."

That princely beggar, Luminous, has lost the property of his wife, lately deceased, which she left to him. She was an Englishwoman, and the English courts have declared her will void, on account of an informality.

A special Washington dispatch to the *Post* says: Letters received here from Robert J. Walker, now in London, state that a great revolution is going on in public opinion in England in relation to the financial strength of this Government. He says also that a heavy tide of emigration will set towards this country in the spring, and with Congressional action it may be swelled to half a million of persons a year, proposes that Congress shall enact that no emigrants shall be liable to conscription during the war. This would disarm suspicion abroad.

BY H. W. SEVERANCE.

On WEDNESDAY - February 17, At 10 o'clock, A. M., at Sales Room, Will be sold:

NEW GOODS PER "YANKEE!"

Consisting of:

Clothing,	Dry goods,
Shoes,	Boxes tobacco,
Boxes candles,	Crockeryware,
Hardware,	Matting,
Tea,	Sugars,
Rice,	Matches,
Rope,	Furniture.

And a Variety of Sundries.

MOTHERS! MOTHERS!!

DON'T FAIL TO PROCURE MRS. WINSTON'S SMOOTHING IRON FOR CHILDREN'S CLOTHING.

This valuable preparation is the prescription of one of the best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and has been used for thirty years with never failing safety and success by millions of mothers and children, from the feeble infant of one week old to the adult.

It not only relieves the child from pain, but invigorates the stomach and bowels, corrects acidity, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. It will almost instantly relieve GRIPING IN THE BOWELS, AND WIND COLIC.

We believe it the Best and Surest Remedy in the World, in all cases of DYSENTERY AND DIARRHEA IN CHILDREN, whether arising from teething or from any other cause. It is perfectly safe, and its use is recommended by Physicians and Surgeons in the Army, and have received testimonials from many eminent men.

Sold by all Druggists and Dealers in Medicine in the United States and most Foreign countries, at 25 cents per box. Agents for California, REDINGTON & CO., San Francisco.

REDINGTON & CO., 416 and 418 Front St., San Francisco, Agents for California.

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES FOR COUGHS AND COLDS.

A SOLETTED COUGH, COLIC, OR LUNGEON, if allowed to progress, results in serious Pulmonary, Bronchial and Asthmatic Diseases, often incurable. BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES, which directly soothe the inflamed membrane, and give almost immediate relief. For BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, CATARRH and CONSUMPTION, Coughs, the Croup, Whooping Cough, and all other affections of the Throat, Lungs and Bronchi, these Troches are the most valuable remedy. They are sold by all Druggists and Dealers in Medicine in the United States and most Foreign countries, at 25 cents per box. Agents for California, REDINGTON & CO., San Francisco.

THE HERALD'S Washington special dispatch says: "Deserters arriving in our lines say the President's amnesty proclamation is creating a feeling in the rebel army which indicates its utter demoralization."

The steamship *Vanderbilt* has arrived at the New York Navy Yard. She returns for repairs to her boilers, which are in a bad condition. After leaving St. Thomas, and when off Nassau, she chased a blockade runner, but was obliged to give up the chase on account of her boilers. Subsequently she picked up fifty bales of cotton, thrown overboard by the chased steamer.

A letter to the New York *Times* from Paris says: The pirate *Florida* is about ready to sail from Brest. She lies in the bay, very close to the Union gunboat *Kearsage*. It is not probable that the latter will be able to stop her for if in port when the *Florida* sails, the twenty-four hours rule will be applied; while if she remains outside, the *Florida*, which is faster than the *Kearsage*, can easily steal out some dark night.

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—In the letter from Secretary Seward to Minister Adams, referred to in last night's dispatch, the United States is insisted and urged to continue to insist that the British Government is justly responsible for the damages which the peaceful and law-abiding citizens of the United States sustain by the depredations of the *Alabama*, that vessel having been built in Great Britain, and armed by the British Government. The Secretary cannot, therefore, instruct Minister Adams to demand compensation from the British Government.

The Era has intelligence from Texas through a preacher, who resided at Fort Laval, that there was an overwhelming Union sentiment in Western Texas. A number of Union men had been imprisoned by order of Magruder, for publishing a book called "Common Sense," and were for their safety, were entertained, as the "Sons of the South" had voted to hang them. Much mutiny exists among the rebel troops in Texas. Magruder is concentrating his forces on the Brazos, thirty miles from the coast, and entrencing.

to refrain from pressing the claims which he has now in his hands.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to-day, a letter was received from the first Assistant Secretary of the Navy, in substance as follows: The charge against the Navy Department for building slow steamers, is best answered by comparative public trial, and I am authorized by the Secretary to make arrangements to run one of our vessels against the fastest sea-going side wheel steamer in the country, foreign or American. She will run against tonnage and draft in any water, and if her competitor is larger, the race is to take place in smooth water.

GREAT FIRE IN CHILE.—The South American mail steamer which reached Panama on the 6th of January, with \$918,000 in treasure for England, brings confirmation of the destruction of the Cathedral at Santiago, Chile, stating that the number of killed was over two thousand. The Cathedral contained two thousand lights, from some of which fire communicated to the drapery of a gigantic image of the Virgin, and pasteboard devices. In an instant a sheet of flame rushed along the festoon of lights to the roof, and a direct spray of fire upon the building. The people rushed to the principal door, which was soon blocked up. Most of the men escaped by the sacristy and side doors. But a few of the ministers escaped the lights suspended so plentifully from the roof poured a rain of liquid fire on the people below, and in less than fifteen minutes over two thousand people, mostly women, were blackened corpses.

From Europe.

St. John's, N. F., Jan. 17th.—The *Columbia* from Calcutta on the 6th, has arrived. It is confirmed that Maximilian will visit Paris, and reach Mexico before the end of March, with the requisite reinforcements.

The Holstein question shows increasing embitterment.

The Times continues to take gloomy views, and says that the Germans are waiting still upon events, while events threaten more and more to be master rather than guide.

An address to Napoleon was introduced in the Corps Legislative on the 4th. It expresses the hope that beneficial results may be derived from the Chinese and Mexican expeditions. It is very pacific in tone towards Russia, and loudly extols the Emperor's scheme for a Congress.

The rebel steamer *Florida* had completed its repairs at Brest and anchored about two hundred yards from the *Kearsage*. She will sail in February. A French vessel will accompany each at an interval of twenty-four hours.

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The Paris correspondent of the London *Spectator* says, in a recent letter, that "everybody in France appears to agree on one point—that an irretrievable disaster of the French troops (in Mexico) or a war with the United States would instantly sound the death-knell of the Second Empire."

That princely beggar, Luminous, has lost the property of his wife, lately deceased, which she left to him. She was an Englishwoman, and the English courts have declared her will void, on account of an informality.

A special Washington dispatch to the *Post* says: Letters received here from Robert J. Walker, now in London, state that a great revolution is going on in public opinion in England in relation to the financial strength of this Government. He says also that a heavy tide of emigration will set towards this country in the spring, and with Congressional action it may be swelled to half a million of persons a year, proposes that Congress shall enact that no emigrants shall be liable to conscription during the war. This would disarm suspicion abroad.

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THE HERALD'S Washington special dispatch says: "Deserters arriving in our lines say the President's amnesty proclamation is creating a feeling in the rebel army which indicates its utter demoralization."

The steamship *Vanderbilt* has arrived at the New York Navy Yard. She returns for repairs to her boilers, which are in a bad condition. After leaving St. Thomas, and when off Nassau, she chased a blockade runner, but was obliged to give up the chase on account of her boilers. Subsequently she picked up fifty bales of cotton, thrown overboard by the chased steamer.

A letter to the New York *Times* from Paris says: The pirate *Florida* is about ready to sail from Brest. She lies in the bay, very close to the Union gunboat *Kearsage*. It is not probable that the latter will be able to stop her for if in port when the *Florida* sails, the twenty-four hours rule will be applied; while if she remains outside, the *Florida*, which is faster than the *Kearsage*, can easily steal out some dark night.

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—In the letter from Secretary Seward to Minister Adams, referred to in last night's dispatch, the United States is insisted and urged to continue to insist that the British Government is justly responsible for the damages which the peaceful and law-abiding citizens of the United States sustain by the depredations of the *Alabama*, that vessel having been built in Great Britain, and